Claims

1. A method of providing service selection at a mobile terminal, the method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of services, each of the services comprising one or more service components, at least some of the service components having different media formats, the service components for a given service being transmitted in a time-sliced manner on a given channel;

generating service identification data relating service components to services on that channel;

repeatedly transmitting the service identification data on the channel; and

repeatedly transmitting information relating to the timing of transmissions of the service identification data.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the generating service identification data step includes generating data identifying the media format of each service component.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which the channel is at a given frequency.

4. A method of providing service selection at a mobile terminal, the method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of services, each of the services comprising one or more service components, at least some of the service components having different media formats, the service components for a given service being transmitted in a time-sliced manner at a given frequency;

generating service identification data relating service components at a given frequency to services and identifying the media format of each service component;

repeatedly transmitting the service identification data at the frequency carrying the corresponding service components; and

repeatedly transmitting information relating to the timing of transmissions of the service identification data.

5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim , comprising transmitting the timing information in a network different to that used for the service identification data information transmitting step.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the timing information transmitting step is performed in response to an enquiry from a mobile terminal.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the timing information transmitting step is performed in response to an enquiry transmitted from the mobile terminal using the different network.

8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising using the service identification data to generate a service guide for one or more services.

9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising:

receiving the service identification data at a mobile terminal; and

at the mobile terminal, hierarchically arranging the services including the service components from the received service identification data.

10. A system for providing service selection at a mobile terminal, the system comprising:

means for transmitting a plurality of services, each of the services comprising one or more service components, at least some of the service components having different media formats, the service components for a given service being arranged to be transmitted in a time-sliced manner on given channel;

means for transmitting service identification data relating service components on the channel to services;

means for repeatedly transmitting the service identification data on the channel; and

means for repeatedly transmitting information relating to the timing of transmissions of the service identification data;

whereby a mobile terminal can use the timing information to tune to an appropriate channel at an appropriate time to decode service identification data relating to a required service and subsequently obtain required service components thereof.

11. A system as claimed in claim 10, in which the channel is on a given frequency.

12. A system as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11, in which the generating service identification data means includes means for generating data identifying the media format of each service component.

13. A system for providing service selection at a mobile terminal, the system comprising:

means for transmitting a plurality of services, each of the services comprising one or more service components, at least some of the service components having different media formats, the service components for a given service being arranged to be transmitted in a time-sliced manner at a given frequency;

means for transmitting service identification data relating service components at a given frequency to services and identifying the media format of each service component;

means for repeatedly transmitting the service identification data at the frequency carrying the corresponding service components; and

means for repeatedly transmitting information relating to the timing of transmissions of the service identification data;

whereby a mobile terminal can use the timing information to tune to an appropriate frequency at an appropriate time to decode service identification data relating to a required service and subsequently obtain required service components thereof.

14. A system as claimed in any of claims 10 to 13, comprising means for transmitting the timing information in a network different to that used for the service identification data information transmission.

15. A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the timing information is transmitted in response to an enquiry from the mobile terminal.

16. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the enquiry from the mobile terminal uses the different network.

17. A system as claimed in any of claims 10 to 16, comprising a mobile terminal arranged to use the service identification data to generate a service guide for one or more services.

18. A system as claimed in any of claims 10 to 17, in which a or the mobile terminal is arranged to receive the service identification data, and to use it to arrange hierarchically the services including the service components.

19. A mobile terminal, comprising:

means for receiving at least one repeated transmission of information relating to the timing of transmissions of service identification data;

means for using the timing information to tune to an appropriate channel at an appropriate time to decode service identification data, the service identification data relating service components on the channel to services; and

means for subsequently obtaining, from service components transmitted in a time-sliced manner on the channel, required service components of a service.

20. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 19, in which the service identification data relates service components on the channel to services.

21. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20, in which the channel is at a given frequency.

22. A mobile terminal, comprising:

means for receiving at least one repeated transmission of information relating to the timing of transmissions of service identification data;

means for using the timing information to tune to an appropriate frequency at an appropriate time to decode service identification data, the service identification data relating service components at the frequency to services and identifying the media format of each service component; and

means for subsequently obtaining, from service components transmitted in a time-sliced manner at the given frequency, required service components of a service.

23. A method of operating a mobile terminal, comprising:

receiving at least one repeated transmission of information relating to the timing of transmissions of service identification data;

using the timing information to tune to an appropriate channel at an appropriate time to decode service identification data, the service identification data relating service components at the frequency to services; and

subsequently obtaining, from service components transmitted in a time-sliced manner on the channel, required service components of a service.

24. A method as claimed in claim 23, in which the service identification data relates service components on the channel to services.

25. A method as claimed in claim 22 or claim 24, in which the channel is at a given frequency.

26. A method of operating a mobile terminal, comprising:

receiving at least one repeated transmission of information relating to the timing of transmissions of service identification data;

using the timing information to tune to an appropriate frequency at an appropriate time to decode service identification data, the service identification data relating service components at the frequency to services and identifying the media format of each service component; and

subsequently obtaining, from service components transmitted in a time-sliced manner at the given frequency, required service components of a service.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, comprising using the service identification data to generate a service guide for one or more services.

28. A method of providing service selection data on a display, comprising:

receiving service identification data relating service components at a given frequency to services and relating services at the given frequency to service sets;

hierarchically arranging services including the appropriate service components; and

displaying the different service sets, services or service components.

29. A method as claimed in any of claims 23 to 28, in which the arranging step comprises using data items describing the various service components for categorising received content items.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29, in which the content items are categorised according to content type.

31. A method as claimed in any of claims 23 to 30, comprising arranging the services in an order according to their timing.

32. A method of receiving a content item, comprising:

providing service selection data using the method of any of claims 23 to 31; and

following selection of a displayed service set, service or service component, tuning to the correct channel at the appropriate time when the selected service set, service or service component is being transmitted.

33. A mobile terminal comprising:

means arranged to receive service identification data relating service components on a given channel to services and relating services on the given channel to service sets;

a controller arranged to order hierarchically services including the appropriate service components; and

means arranged to display the different service sets, services or service components.

34. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 33, in which the channel is at a given frequency.

35. A mobile terminal comprising:

means arranged to receive service identification data relating service components at a given frequency to services and relating services at the given frequency to service sets;

a controller arranged to order hierarchically services including the appropriate service components; and

means arranged to display the different service sets, services or service components.

36. A mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 33 to 35 , in which the controller is arranged to use data items describing the various service components to categorise received content items.

37. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 36, in which the content items are categorised according to content type.

38. A mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 32 to 37, in which the controller categorises the services in an order according to their timing.

39. A mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 33 to 38, arranged to be responsive to the selection of a displayed service set, service or service component, to tune to the correct channel at the appropriate time when the selected service set, service or service component is being transmitted.